

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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Philately from Australia

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*Official Organ of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria
and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

VOL. XIV, No. 3

SEPTEMBER 1962

AN INTERNATIONAL FOR MELBOURNE

For many of us, including the writer, who have, over more years than they care to remember, assisted in the organisation of Philatelic Exhibitions, there are certain elements of disillusion. This is not surprising, but lest readers suspect the presence of "an angry old man" we hasten to clarify the position.

There are today many more competing hobbies and interests than there were yesterday. If the more traditional hobbies – and stamp collecting is now one of these – are to hold their place in the face of such competition they require *promotion*. That is precisely what such an Exhibition as this should afford. In the long run it at least informs the general public – comparatively few of whom actually visit the show itself – that there is a substantial number of reasonably sane, adult persons who believe that stamp collecting is worthwhile. In short, an Exhibition should advertise the fact that our hobby is alive and not dead.

It is now some 12 years since we in Melbourne last advertised that fact. Times – and costs – have changed in the meantime, but of one thing we are sure: that is that we have in this State sufficient knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and teamwork to make MIPEX 1963 a very great success.

Already one can specify two features which will be new to this country. In the first place the competitive portion of the Exhibition will, for reasons already explained, be restricted to the more traditional forms of Philately and Postal History. This, with the international competition which will be forthcoming, should ensure, for Australia, what will be an unequalled standard. *Everything* shown should therefore be well worth looking at.

In the second place, we are seeking the services, as judges, of at least two eminent overseas philatelists. This will serve the additional purpose of bringing us up to date with the lessons of international experience. Despite improved means of communication it remains a fact that Australian philately is still somewhat remote and isolated, so far as contact with the main centres of philately is concerned. The 1963 Exhibition should go a respectable distance in remedying that position.

At the moment, *Finance* and *Space* are the two major considerations. In relation to the latter it is hoped very shortly that the final arrangements will have been made. It is clear, however, at this stage that *two* locations are necessary, one relatively close to the other, if all the exhibits and facilities one envisages are to have adequate accommodation.

As to finance, it is believed that expenses on this occasion may well be in the vicinity of £6000. It is planned to raise at least a total of £3500 from donations of money and from donations of stamps for *Sale by Auction*. It is hoped to stage *two* such sales, one about March 1963 and the other about September 1963.

While this journal has a somewhat limited circulation it does number amongst its readers most of those collectors in this country generously disposed in the matter of philatelic causes. Never has a substantial financial response been as badly needed as it is here, and in such a short time. Nevertheless we believe that the will is there and that the necessary results will be attained. Please do what you can—personally, with your friends, inside your societies. Just over 12 months is all that remains.

On all the other aspects of the Exhibition substantial progress has already been made. We do not propose saying a great deal more about it in this journal but suggest your regularly perusing the columns of the *A.S.M.*, which has been made the Official Organ for MIPEX.

J.R.W.P.

TWO NEW BOOKS IN PREPARATION ON THE STAMPS OF VICTORIA

As part of its publication programme the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria hopes to publish, in October 1963, Mr Purves' long awaited work on *The Barred Numeral Cancellations, 1856-1912*. This work, the manuscript of which the author informs us is about two-thirds completed, is the result of a collecting and study experience of over 30 years. It will cover, as well as the cancellations themselves, the history of many of the Post Offices concerned, the changes of name, openings and closings, and many other subjects. Whether judged from the viewpoint of size or contents it will certainly constitute a major endeavour and of a like standing to the Society's recent "Tasmania" publication.

A second work by Mr Purves likely to appear in 1963 will be a study of the "Too Late" and "Registered" stamps of 1854-58. These stamps are the last Victorias to yield up their main secrets to Mr Purves' attack, but yield them up they finally have, and the answers are interesting indeed. Neither of these stamps, of course, grows on every rosebush and it must have taken a long time to accumulate (and inspect) sufficient numbers to produce results.

After he completes the above two works we would like, personally, to see the publication of the same student's studies of the 2d. "Queen-on-Thrones." He has here achieved a degree of finality comparable with his conclusions on the "Half-Lengths."

J.G.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. P. MEARA

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 5d. BOOKLET ISSUE

It was not my intention to probe deeply into the 5d. booklet, but I confess that the combined discoveries and reports of Messrs Hansen and Skinner, of Sydney, and Dunn, Salisbury, and myself, in Queensland, demanded that close attention must be paid to these booklets.

With unstinting aid from Mr Dunn, I decided several months ago to plate this emission, and have no regrets. I commend the booklet as a very worthwhile study which will provide excellent specialist results.

Issue

The 5d. booklet was issued on 23 March 1960, and is the first Australian booklet to contain commercial advertising matter, full details of which may be found in the Philatelic Bulletins of the Postmaster-General's Department.

On 8 May 1961 the first booklet-vending machine was installed at Spencer Street railway station, Melbourne, on an experimental basis, and booklets with the redesigned cover appeared in Sydney on 8 August 1962.

Master Plate

In keeping with the second type of booklet plate devised and utilised since 1949, the master plate comprises 576 units, centrally divided to provide left and right sheets of 288 arranged in six vertical panels or panes of 144 units (16 x 3). The outer sides and each alternate column of each panel are imperforate, so that after collating and stitching of the components, and guillotining, each booklet block of six stamps is imperforate on three sides, but is perforated centrally in the vertical, at top and between each pair in the horizontal but not at the base.

The master plate was laid by a transfer roller with three reliefs in vertical presentation, the alignment being particularly good as only odd booklets show one vertical strip of three units above or below the alignment of its neighbour, e.g., booklets I.5 and K.1. There is also a marked absence of roller shift.

The three units differ in that there are two dies, one with a sub-type, described briefly as follows:

Upper, Type A — four lines in the lower curve of 5.

Lower, Type B — five lines in the lower curve of 5.

Middle — As Type B except that there is a slight protuberance in the concave of the left foot of the first "A" of "Australia."

Plate layout lines, corner markings, perforation pips which I assume are either Type IV (o O o) or Type V (O), plate numbers, and on the printed sheets punched holes of 3 mm. diameter for assembly purposes no doubt exist, and measurements generally would be similar to such details described for the 4d. Claret Q.E. II booklet (in *P from A*, September 1959, page 67).

Components

The booklet covers and inset pages are printed in blocks of 48 (8 x 6) to accord with the size of the sheet of 288 units, the private contractor being Letterpress Ltd, Hindmarsh, South Australia. In studies of previous booklet issues a certain measure of assistance was gained from irregularities in cover and inset printing, but this cannot be said of the 5d. booklet due to the content of varying advertisements.

However, some details of the components are pertinent to this study and are set forth hereunder:

1. Front cover: Obverse — The original design differs from previous booklet covers in that the value is 5/- and the Coat of Arms is larger and without the background of wattle blooms. The new design (Edition 3/1962) reads simply in four lines, "Twelve 5d. Postage Stamps 5/- / Postage / Stamps / Australian Post Office" in alternating deep green and deep rose-pink ink.
2. First inset: First utilised with Edition 2/1961 (see tabulation).
3. First block of six stamps.
- 3a. Wax interleaving for tropical area issues.
4. Second inset: See tabulation.
5. Second block of six stamps.
- 5a. Wax interleaving for tropical area issues.
6. Third inset: See tabulation.
7. Back cover: See tabulation.

The key to the tabulation is:

- A. Rates of Postage within Australia.
- B. Rates of Postage Overseas.
- C. Envelope sizes for carriage by air mail.
- D. TV and radio licence.
- E. Advertisement varying from time to time.

Edition	First inset		Second inset		Third inset		Back cover	
	Obv.	Rev.	Obv.	Rev.	Obv.	Rev.	Obv.	Rev.
1960/1	—	—	E	E	E	C	D	E
2	—	—	E	E	E	C	D	E
3	—	—	E	E	E	E	C	E
4	—	—	E	E	E	E	C	E
5	—	—	E	E	E	D	E	E
1961/1	—	—	E	A	E	E	B	E
2	A	E	E	E	E	B	E	E
3	A	E	E	E	E	B	E	E
4	A	E	E	E	B	E	E	E
1962/1	A	E	E	E	E	B	E	E
2	A	E	E	E	E	B	E	E
3	A	E	E	E	E	B	E	E

Contractor's Imprint

This appears in four different settings and is found in three different positions:

1. One line setting, "Printers-Letterpress Ltd., Sth Aust., Edition 1/1960" and ". . . Edition 2/1960" appears in blue at the right side of the outside back cover.

2. Three line setting, "Edition . . ./Printers: LETTERPRESS LTD./ HINDMARSH, SOUTH AUSTRALIA" appears in red at the top of the inside back cover for Editions 3, 4, 5/1960 and 1/1961.
3. Three line setting, "Printers: LETTERPRESS LTD./ HINDMARSH, SOUTH AUSTRALIA,/ Edition 2/1961" appears in red at the top of the inside back cover.
4. Three line setting, similar to (3) appears in red at the top of the inside front cover, with the addition of "Gen.", "N.S.W." or "Vic." after the year for Editions 3, 4/1961 and 1, 2, 3/1962, for which editions the commercial advertising differed in New South Wales, Victoria, and other States generally.

Amendment to Text

The "Rates of Postage within Australia" first inserted in Edition 1/1961 contains a paragraph relating to "Air Mail" which reads, *inter alia*, "... for delivery within Australia is carried by air free. . . ." This setting held for the four editions of 1961, but was amended with Edition 1/1962 to read, "... for delivery within Australia and its Territories is carried by air free. . . ."

Booklet Indicators

As previously, these appear, as viewed, in the top right of the first booklet in each panel, but quite frequently extend across the first two booklets. A thin 5 mm. blue line appeared on editions up till and including 3/1961, although I have one panel of edition 3/1961 without an indicator. Edition 4/1961 and subsequent editions to date bear a thick, heavy 5 mm. line which differs slightly in appearance from panel to panel, also seemingly with each edition, so that such inconstancy is not always a quick means of panel disposition.

Disposition of Panels

Due to the use of unwatermarked paper, to determine which eight booklets constitute a complete panel sequence, it is essential to check the regularity of stitching spacing, the bisect of the horizontal perforation holes and the vagaries of the guillotine cut on the components of each adjoining booklet in the panel.

The disposition of the panels presented a far greater problem. Fortunately, the booklet plate abounds in scratches, dashes and dots and some hairlines, and with patience sufficient dashes or vertical hairlines (some transient) were found at the top or base of odd booklets of certain panels, which also appeared in corresponding positions on the panel above or below, so that eventually the correct disposition of all panels was revealed.

A number of combination booklets were secured in which the first block of six stamps was from one side of the plate, and the second block from the directly opposite side, but this is not conclusive proof that the first block is from the left side, as it does not necessarily follow that a bundle of left side sheets would be always placed on top of a bundle of right side sheets on the collating table.

Stapled Booklets

Several stapled booklets are held in which the components were stitched but to which unstitched covers were affixed. No clues can be gained from the covers to indicate that the covers are from different positions than the booklet blocks of stamps, and only two of these booklets can be positioned, viz.:

Edition 1/1960 — Broad metal staple.

Edition 3/1960 — Wire staples, booklets K7, K8.

Edition 4/1960 — Wire staples, one booklet, with panel cover No. 2.

Electros

In the light of the listed electro varieties and the position of the corner markings which follow, I consider three electros have been utilised to date, but apart from the linking of certain panels, my use of Nos. 1, 2 and 3 for these electros is purely for expediency, although I have endeavoured to use the edition numbers as a very rough guide.

It is quite feasible that as the 5d. Q.E. II is printed from plates of 640-on for post office sheets, 320-on (or 640-on) for coils, and 576-on for booklets, that electros are numbered consecutively from No. 1 irrespective of the master plate arrangement.

During the past few years an unusually high proportion of coloured markings of the spots and dashes nature has consistently appeared on sheets of various values including these booklet sheets, which leads one to wonder whether a printing surface softer than the usual hard chrome-surface is being used. Whatever the cause, a number of such markings are subsequently retouched, odd ones a second time, and this adds an interest of some importance in electro study.

I do not propose to list every recorded dash and scratch, but only those which provide flaw and retouch, evidence of a different electro, or connecting links between panels. It must be understood, too, that although plating is practically complete, the study is far from being so due to a late start with limited material, but in the listing which follows, I believe the disposition of the panels to be correct.

The references are to panel, booklet, stamps in pairs 1-2 upper pair, 3-4 middle pair, 5-6 lower pair, so that D7/6, for instance, refers to the fourth panel left side, booklet No. 7 in that panel, and stamp No. 6 in the block. Reference to edition numbers does not infer that any listing is confined only to booklets in that particular edition.

Corner Markings

These appear in blue at the opposing top corners of the top panels "A" and "G," and the lower corners of the bottom panels "F" and "L," the commencing points (in mm.) of those observed to date being:

<i>Panel</i>	<i>Edition</i>	<i>Electro</i>	<i>Left corner</i>	<i>Right corner</i>
"A"	2/1960	1	8 up, 1½ out	—
		2	—	—
		3	4½ up, 1¼ out	5 up, 1½ out
"G"	1/1960	1	Sufficient side margin but not top	
	2,3/61	2	Margins too close	
	4/1961	3	4¼ up, 1½ out	4¼ up, 1½ out
"F"		1	—	—
		2	—	—
		3	—	2 down, 1½ out
"L"	1/1962	3	—	1½ down, 1½ out
	1/1960	1	—	—
	4/1961	2	2 down, 1½ out	—
	1/1962	3	Margins too close	

*Left Side Panels**Panel "A"*

Electro 1, Ed. 2/60 — Booklet No. 1 only held.

Electro 2, Ed. 3/61 — Booklets 2, 3, 4 held.

3/5 — 2 mm. sloping scratch in margin below first "A" (plate).

Electro 3, Ed. 4/61 — Panel.

1/6 — 1 mm. sloping dash in margin 3 mm. below "L" (? electro — panel link with B1/2 electro 3).

4/6 — Sloping scratch between feet of second "A" and vertical hairline right edge of last "A" (electro).

Panel "B"

Electro 2, Ed. 3/61 (Panel phase I), *Ed. 1/62* (Panel phase II).

6/5 — Phases I and II — Spot between the two lines joining the two rosettes right side top; tick off right frame 2½ mm. down (electro).

6/6 — Phase I — Dash between lines 5 and 6 below "5" (electro).

Phase II — Minor retouch to remove dash, leaving weak local area (electro).

7/5 — (*Ed. 1/62*) — Vertical hairline through "A," 2 mm. from L.L.C. (Transient, but panel link to C7/1, *Electro 2*.)

Electro 3, Ed. 4/61 — Panel.

1/2 — 1 mm. sloping dash 7 mm. above second rosette from right (? electro, panel link with A1/6, *Electro 3*).

6/5 — Normal.

6/6 — Normal.

Panel "C"

Electro 2 1/62 — Panel.

7/1 — Vertical hairline 2 mm. from T.L.C. (Transient, but panel link with B7/5, *Electro 2*, *Ed. 1/62*.)

8/5 — Horizontal scratches in margin below "TRALI."

Panel "D"

Not yet seen. Details to be furnished in due course.

Panel "E"

Electro 1, Ed. 2/61, 3/61 — Booklet No. 1 only.

Electro 2, Ed. 4/61 — Booklet No. 1 only.

Electro 3, Ed. 1/62 — Panel.

1/3 — Nice recut to lower right frame (plate).

1/5 — Recut to top right frame and rosette (plate).

Panel "F"

Electro 3, Ed. 1/62 — Panel.

4/6 and 5/5 — Spot midway between booklets, 3 mm. up (? layout dot).

6/2 — Tick off left frame 4½ mm. down (? electro).

7/3-5 — Spot in middle of margin below "T" (? electro).

*Right Side Panels**Panel "G"*

Electro 1, Ed. 1/60 — Panel.

1/3 — Spot near inner right frame below third rosette (plate).

5/1 — Nice recut to four frame lines T.R.C. to second rosette (electro).

Electro 2, Ed. 2/61 — Booklets; *3/61* — Panel (Phase I); *1/62* — Panel (Phase II).

1/3 — Minor recut to remove spot (*Electro 1*) leaving lines thinner (electro).

- 3/6 - Vertical hairline $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from L.L.C. (Ed. 3/61, transient but panel link with H3/2; Ed. 3/61, Electro 2).
 4/6 - Colour fleck or dash right of foot of "d" (electro).
 7/6 - Phase I - Extensive recutting of lines between earring and chin and on neck below jaw (the "Goitre," electro, dated copy 2 NO 61).
 Phase II - A strengthening of Phase I recut making it more obvious (electro).
 A common feature to both phases is a spot off the cheek above the nose.

Electro 3, Ed. 4/61 - Panel.

- 1/3 - Spot *vide* electro No. 1 (plate).
 5/4 - Spot between tip of vertical serif of "L" and "I" (electro).

Panel "H"

Electro 2, Ed. 3/61 - Panel.

- 3/2 - Vertical hairline $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from T.L.C. (Transient, but panel link to G3/6, Electro 2).
 6/2 - Area of weakness left of and to ends of hair behind ear (electro).

Panel "I"

Electro 1, Ed. 1/60 - Booklet No. 1 only.

- 1/5 - Diagonal fleck of colour between frames L.R.C. (plate).

Electro 2, Ed. 4/61 - Panel.

- 1/5 - In addition to colour fleck above (plate), spot adjoins lower side of bar of second "A" (electro).
 2/5 - 1 mm. sloping dash 3 mm. below frame under "I" (? electro, but panel link with J2/1, Electro 2).
 5/4 - Tick 1 mm. off left frame opposite third rosette (? electro).
 6/5 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. heavy dash through base of "5" (electro).

Panel "J"

Electro 1, Ed. 1/61 - Booklet No. 1 only.

- 1/1-2 - Right frame thin from top to second rosette (plate).

Electro 2, Ed. 4/61 - Panel.

- 1/1-2 - As for Electro 1.
 1/5 - Spot next inner left frame opposite bar of "A" (electro).
 2/1 - 1 mm. sloping dash $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above second rosette from right (? electro, but panel link with I2/5, Electro 2).
 5/6 - 1 mm. dash below "U" and $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. scratch below "RA," $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from frame (? electro, but panel links with K5/2, Electro 2).

Panel "K"

Electro 2, Ed. 1/62 - Panel

- 4/5 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. sloping scratch under "R" from inner frame through to margin (? electro).
 5/2 - Sloping markings 8-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above top frame (? electro, but panel links corresponding with J5/6, Electro 2).

Panel "L"

Electro 1, Ed. 1/60 - Booklet No. 8 only.

Electro 2, Ed. 4/61 - Panel.

- 1/3 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. scratch through right frame $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. up (electro).
 5/3 - Spot close to outer frame below "T" (electro).
 6/6 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. scratch lower margin sloping to L.R.C. (electro).

Electro 3, Ed. 1/62 - Panel

- 1/3 - Short dash 1 mm. off left frame, 10 mm. up (electro).
 5/4 - Short dash into base of hair, local weakness and absence of shading near hair. Has every appearance of "bump and burnish" to remove portion of dash which previously extended into shading. (Electro.)

NOTES ON NORFOLK ISLAND, NEW HEBRIDES AND THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

By JOHN S. GIBSON

(Mr John Gibson, of the Pacific Islands Study Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club, reports on a visit to some of the Pacific Islands)

I recently went for a trip on the MV *Tulagi*, a cargo ship of 1700 tons, which calls at Norfolk Island, the New Hebrides, the British Solomon Islands, Bougainville and then back to Sydney. During the voyage I went to the post offices at the various ports of call and was very interested to learn about their regulations and see them in operation myself.

Norfolk Island, being administered by the Australian Government, follows the same regulations and practices as the Commonwealth. However, there is one notable exception with regard to postage dues. As Norfolk Island has no postage due stamps ordinary postage stamps are used on taxed mail received there and, also, as Norfolk Island has no tax handstamp, insufficiently prepaid mail posted there is taxed by hand. There is no PAQUEBOT cancellation either, probably because so few ships call there, and ship mail bearing foreign stamps is cancelled with the ordinary circular datestamp.

The *Tulagi's* next port of call was Vila, in the New Hebrides, where I met Mr A. Hirsch, the postal officer at the chief post office there. Mr Hirsch showed me the postmarks currently used there and also told me about the new French postal agency established recently at Lamap on Malekula Island.

Vila uses four circular datestamps, two in French and two in English. They are distinguished by having the figures "1" or "2" after the date in the centre in each case. Those which are numbered "1" are usually kept on the front counter and the others, which are numbered "2," are used in the mail room at the back of the post office (Figs. 1 and 2). Vila also has two roller cancellations, one in English and one in French. They are self-inking, and as they are used mostly on parcels and newspapers it is hard to get a good example of them (Fig. 3).

Vila post office has a tax mark which consists of a capital "T" inside an inverted triangle. This is stamped on the letter and the postage due written alongside, but the common practice is to write the whole thing by hand, and this mark is consequently hard to obtain. The PAQUEBOT cancellation has been in use longer than any of the others and was recorded by Studd in 1951. Unlike the other cancellations it is not duplicated in French and English, and as it is only occasionally used when ships' letters are received bearing uncanceled foreign stamps nothing

is likely to be done about it (Fig. 5). Occasionally an odd letter or two is handed in from a calling ship, and as there is an insufficient number to warrant getting the special postmark the thumbscrew of the circular datestamp is used to cancel the stamp and an ordinary postmark is placed alongside. This mark is a solid circle and complies with the regulation that foreign stamps must not be cancelled with the ordinary type of postmark and effectively prevents any re-use of the stamp.

Santo was the next port of call, and although it has a better shopping centre and wharf the post office is in a much smaller building than in Vila and also has a smaller number of postmarks. The postmarks there are similar to those used at Vila, but there is only one in English and one in French, each having the figure "1" alongside the date. There is no PAQUEBOT cancellation and the thumbscrew of the circular datestamp is used to obliterate the stamps and an ordinary postmark is placed alongside them. Unless on cover or piece with an identifying postmark, stamps cancelled with this circular mark could be from either Santo or Vila, and the stamps which are cancelled this way are usually from the British Solomon Islands, Australia, New Caledonia and occasionally from other territories nearby.

The new French postal agency at Lamap uses a circular datestamp similar to those used at Vila and Santo. This postmark is in French, and I was informed that this is the only one being used there at present. The *Tulagi* passed by Malekula Island and I saw Lamap, but as the ship did not call there I was unable to get any first-hand information. Another postal agency will be established at Ferrari on the northern side of Efate Island when the French phosphate works are established, possibly later this year.

After the New Hebrides, the *Tulagi* called at several ports in the British Solomon Islands, including Honiara, Yandina and Gizo. As Honiara is well covered by philatelic articles I will only mention the markings not commonly seen and the postage dues. The tax mark (Fig. 7) has been in use for a long time and is a self-inking type of handstamp, which would explain why the colour of the tax mark is not always the same as the postmark. The postage due stamps used at Honiara, as well as the other post offices I saw, are rusty and without enough glue left on them to stick them down. The practice is to paste them on the envelope with glue, and as they are usually cancelled when the glue is still wet they are often cut by the datestamp.

The dead-letter office mark is also a self-inking handstamp and is at present cancelled in red. It is used to frank official envelopes containing letters which are being returned to the sender for non-delivery. Letters which have not been delivered are kept for two months, then are marked with a directive mark (Fig. 8) in which "inconnu," "parti," "decède," etc., has been ticked. They are then returned by official cover and this official cover is the one which bears the dead-letter office mark (Fig. 9). Letters from overseas which are undelivered are returned to the dead-letter office of the country of origin, and are forwarded to the senders from there, which makes it very hard to get this postmark.

Honiara has two PAQUEBOT marks, which are both very large. The first one (Fig. 10) has been in use since at least 1951, when it was recorded by Studd, and the second one (Fig. 11) has been in use since 1955. I have seen fewer examples of the second type, but as they are both kept in the same box there is no reason



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

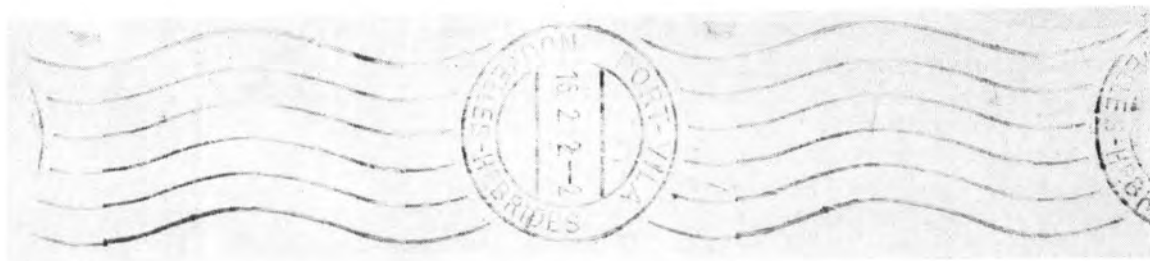


Fig. 3



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Fig. 11

why one should be scarcer than the other. They are both used to cancel the stamps and the ordinary circular datestamp is placed alongside on the envelope. These marks are usually seen on the stamps of Papua and New Guinea, Australia and the New Hebrides, which are on letters handed in from ships.

Yandina has a registration mark which is much larger than those used at the other Solomon Island post offices, but it is very similar in design. There is no tax mark, and insufficiently prepaid letters are taxed in manuscript, usually with red pencil. The postage due memoranda referred to on page 87 of *Gisbiera* are still used at Yandina, but the postage due stamps are now affixed to the envelope, and only a cancellation is on the memorandum.

Gizo was the *Tulagi's* last port of call in the British Solomons and is very interesting to the postal historian because of its use of postal markings from a nearby post office at Munda. Munda was issued with two official franks and two tax stamps when it reopened in 1958 and as Gizo had neither of these markings one of each was kept by the postmaster there. During 1959 the Gizo registration stamp had to be renewed and in the interim a spare one from Munda was used. There are no immediate plans to supply Gizo with either an official frank stamp or a tax mark with its own name on them, so we may expect to see more covers with postal markings of Gizo and Munda.

In concluding these remarks I acknowledge assistance of the pursers on the *Tulagi* and the postal officials I met during the trip.

NEW BUSINESS MANAGER

After eight years' valued and eager service, Mr A. J. Petrie has retired from the position of business manager of *Philately from Australia*.

Mr J. C. Todd has now taken over the position, and asks that mail for the business manager should be addressed to him at Box 42, Post Office, Mentone.

The superintendent of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's sale by tender branch, Mr T. C. Lester, asks that his mail should be addressed to Post Office Box 2, Kew.

Mail for the editor of *Philately from Australia* and other officers of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria should still be addressed to G.P.O. Box 222, Melbourne, Victoria.

Correct indication, on the envelope, as to whether mail is intended for secretary, treasurer, exchange branch, librarian, business manager or editor of *Philately from Australia*, would be a great help.



The Other Side of the Picture



Conducted by J. R. W. Purves, F.R.P.S.L.

On this occasion time has been limited and I have only been able to bring up to date various new finds made by Mr Campbell in the Queensland cancellations. In the next number I should be able to report a number of interesting items in Tasmania and Victoria.

QUEENSLAND

The Numeral Cancellations

Over the past six months further material has been examined and communicated to me by Mr Campbell. I have now collated this new information and set it out below:

New Ties, Corrections, etc.

- 63 BROOKVILLE. Not mentioned in Porter. The cancellation is a "10-bar"—and not a "rays" type. CLERMONT, which originally used 63, first used 612 in 1902, so that Brookville may have been opened in that year.
- 94 ROSEVALE. See Porter, p. 32. Delete 525, which was used at ROSEDALE.
- 223 NYMBOOL. See Porter, p. 34. Two tying pieces, dated in 1905. A re-allocation. Porter's opening date is incorrect.
- 231 KOOJAREWON. See Porter, p. 20. There were *two* HIGHFIELDS offices, HIGHFIELDS - GEHAM and HIGHFIELDS - KOOJAREWON. The latter place was near Murphy's Creek and it now appears that the 231 seen on pieces with a MURPHY'S CREEK datestamp did not belong to that office but was a transit marking applied at Koojarewon.
- 235 MILLMERRAN. See Porter, p. 27, under DOMVILLE, the name being changed on 16.11.94. A re-allocation, MILMERRAN, is *not* found with 81—see later correction.
- 266 EMU CREEK or MOUNTSIDE(?) was somewhere near Toowoomba. More information is required.
- 267 WATERFORD. See Porter, p. 13. *Not* OXENFORD as previously reported (p. 31). Porter says that Logan Reserve (35) became Waterford and that a *new* office called LOGAN RESERVE was opened on 27.10.77. It may well have been that the *new* office was called WATERFORD.
- 305 *not* TURALLIN.
- 306 *not* TURALLIN. A transit marking applied at PITTSWORTH.
- 325 EWAN. See Porter, p. 31. A re-allocation.

- 331 COORPAROO. See Porter, p. 22. *Not* 329 as previously reported.
- 335 BOWEN. See Porter, pp. 13, 14. Proving cover dated 1904. A re-allocation *and* replacement.
- 341 NUDGE. See Porter, p. 23. *Not* 335 as previously reported. Not quite certain as numerals are a little vague.
- 372 BEDOURIE. See Porter, p. 31. A re-allocation.
- 391 ROCKHAMPTON. This number was later used by DALBY but during the '90s (when Dalby was using 96) it was occasionally used at Rockhampton, as a postcard shown us by Mr Williams reveals.
- 405 ROMA. See Porter, pp. 13, 14. A re-allocation *and* replacement. Was also used at DULVADILLA (see p. 25). There were *two* types of cancellation.
- 411 T.P.O. No. 2. CENTRAL RAILWAY. Mr Collas informs us that the T.P.O.s on this railway were introduced on 13.7.85 – which agrees with the provision of 410, 411 and 412.
- 427 TATE TIN MINE. See Porter, p. 28. A re-allocation.
- 429 HALIFAX. See Porter, p. 25. Two examples. Previously a probable.
- 593 ALDERLEY. See Porter, p. 30. Previously incorrectly reported as 595.
- 594 ETON. See Porter, p. 23. A replacement.
- 595 LAPP JUNCTION. See Porter, p. 30, where wrongly spelt "LUPPA." Opening date may be wrong.
- 598 DONORS HILL. See Porter, p. 27. A replacement.
- 602 EBAGOOLAH. See Porter, p. 30.
- 607 PLANE CREEK. See Porter, p. 30 (where spelt "PLAIN"). Previously noted, incorrectly, as 588, the number used by MOUNT GARNET.

Confirmations not previously noted

115 BREAKFAST CREEK; 170 MALENY; 197 CAMBOON; 284 DONALDSON; 285 PRATTEN; 287 BURRUM; 336 THURSDAY ISLAND (dated 1905, therefore a re-allocation and replacement); 374 TARINGA; 452 KABRA; 463 GEBANGLE; 474 CORINDA; 495 NORMANBY; 599 AMBY; 622 MACKNADE; 624 STANNARY HILLS (here the date is 1907 so that the opening date in Porter (1910) must be wrong).

Other information of interest

- 81 WARWICK. Both types of 81 were used at Warwick. One type had been reported, incorrectly, as having been used at MILMERRAN.
- 232 MAIDA HILL and BELL were either the same or adjacent places.
- 463 GEBANGLE and PARADISE were the same or adjacent places.
- 533 Seen previously with LOWER PROSPERINE datestamp. Now also seen (1905) with "PROSERPINE."
- 582 HAMBLEDON JN. (Junction). See Porter, p. 31. Also found, earlier, with HAMBLEDON (Porter, p. 29), which was closed in 1902 and later reopened in 1904. A re-allocation, probably purely coincidental.
- NEARDIE. See Porter, p. 23. Not closed in 1892 as Porter states. Was still open in 1899.
- WOLFRAM. See Porter, p. 34. Seen with the first "ray" type. Cancellation is far from clear but number may be 13. Date is 1905, so that Porter's date of opening (1910) is incorrect.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

By G. E. OWEN AND R. LLOYD-SMITH

(This article is a joint effort. John Gartner, F.R.P.S.L., possesses much material, having added the Western Australian section of the Ascher collection of postal stationery to that which he had, and has made it freely available for study: Ron Lloyd-Smith also has a good collection, has inspected several others now in Melbourne, including the official collection formed by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, has consulted with others who are interested, and perused much philatelic literature of the relevant period in search of data. George Owen has perused archival material in Perth and Melbourne, and assembled the facts.)

Items of postal stationery bearing impressed postage stamps for use in the Colony/State of Western Australia comprise postcards, reply cards, envelopes, registration envelopes, newspaper wrappers and letter cards. There was also a telegraph form bearing an impressed stamp.

The postal items are listed in Ascher's *Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World*, 1931, published in German; in *Bright's Catalogue*, dated 1914; Stanley Gibbons tabulate those items which had been issued in their 1897 catalogue; and in Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia*, Volume IV.

Additional information has been obtained from: The Western Australian Postmaster-General's *Annual Reports*; the Western Australian *Government Gazettes*; the Commonwealth of Australia *Philatelic Bulletins*; sundry papers preserved by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Melbourne. Collections formed and seen by the authors, not the least important of which is the Department's official collection, inspected by courtesy of Mr Phil Collas. Sundry items in the philatelic press. These are sparse — from September 1903 to November 1912, a period when a number of items were issued; they are non-existent in Australian periodicals. This indicates the lack of interest in them at that time.

The listings in this article are in chronological sequence of issue as nearly as can be determined. Ascher's and Robson Lowe's numbers are included as a guide.

I. POSTCARDS AND REPLY CARDS

These were the first items to be placed on sale; actually postcards were the only items issued during the colonial period of administration, which ended on 28 February 1901. Their production was due to a decision of the Legislative Council, and an announcement in the *Government Gazette* dated 25 April 1879 stated that they were valid under the provisions of Local Ordinance 9th Victoria No. 6, Section 2. This Ordinance, dated 18 September 1845, provided for "The Conveyance and Postage of Letters." The cards were printed in London by Messrs De La Rue & Co.

The initial issue of postcards in 1879 consisted of two values, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. They were valid for internal postage only: the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. card if the addressee was within the

delivery area of the office of posting; the 1d. card if the addressee was outside that area. The *Gazette* dated 28 April 1879 informed the public that cards were on sale at all post offices in the Colony, at the face value of the stamps impressed on them. From 2 June 1879 the price was increased to cover the cost of manufacture, viz.: ½d. cards — 3 for 2d., 6 for 4d., 9 for 6d., 12 for 8d. 1d. cards — 3 for 4d., 6 for 8d., 9 for 11d., 12 for 1/3. The price was reduced to the face value of the impressed stamps, provided that one dozen was purchased, from 11 November 1880 (*Government Gazette*).

For a time the postage rate on postcards addressed to the other Australian Colonies was 1½d. and the public was permitted to use the stamped cards if an adhesive was affixed to make up the requisite postage (*Government Gazette*). From 1 January 1886 this rate was reduced to 1d. for addressees in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland (*Gazette*), and from 1 July 1892 the scope was extended to all the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, British New Guinea and Fiji (*Gazette*, 28 June 1892).

The De La Rue printings of the 1d. and 1d. postcards were on thick card. The initial issue of the ½d. was on tinted card listed as "salmon" or "light brown"; later supplies were on white, cream or pale buff card, and this value seems to have been withdrawn by 1904, as no sales were reported that year or subsequently (*Philatelic Bulletins*). The 1d. card was practically constant in the colour of the stamp, and on white card. In 1902 a copy of the 1d. De La Rue card was photographed at Melbourne and thence a new printing plate was prepared from which subsequent supplies were made by the Government Printer. These Melbourne printings were on cream card (*Australian Philatelist*, 1 September 1903) of much lighter weight and unsurfaced. There are several shades of the impressed stamp on which the swan lacks definition to some degree, and the tint of the card varies too — one printing is best described as pale buff.

From 1 January 1889, postcards addressed to the United Kingdom via Naples or Brindisi cost 3d., those to the United Kingdom wholly seaborne 2d. (*Gazette*, 18 November 1888, which stated that the latter would be six days longer in transit than the former). Postcards of these values were issued, apparently in 1890, and the W.A. P.M.G.'s *Annual Reports* list the numbers sold as:

3d. Card: 1890, 1027; 1891, 1033; 1892, 290; 1893, 12; 1894, Nil; 1895, 96
Total, 3853

2d. Card: 1890, 1132; 1891, 1843; 1892, 283; 1893, 133; 1894, 360; 1895, 102
Total, 2458

As the rate on postcards addressed to the United Kingdom, or to any country or colony in the Postal Union, was reduced to 1½d. from 1 July 1892 (*Gazette*, 29 June 1892), sales of these two cards during the last three years or so were probably philatelic.

The Western Australian P.M.G.'s *Annual Report for 1892* stated that he "intended to produce the 1½d. card by overprinting those of the 2d. and 3d. values" and this was done locally by means of a handstamp. There must have been a considerable stock of the basic cards, as the 3d. was surcharged first and the supply lasted until 1905; then the 2d. card was surcharged, and a definitive 1½d. card did not appear until 1912. (Gibbons lists a 1½d. card, brown on white, as having been

issued in 1893, but this is erroneous. The editor of that publication was probably misled by an announcement in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, 22 June 1893, which reported a 1½d. card in error for the ½d. card which had recently appeared on white instead of tinted card.)

Printed by Thomas De La Rue & Co. London

No.	Date	Value	Size	Type of Stamp (SG)	Colour Stamp/Card	Remarks	R.L. No.	Anchor	See Note
1	1879	½d.	4¼" x 2 15/16"	12	Brown/Salmon	Thick, bordered card. At least 2 printings—shades.	CP1	1	
2	"	1d.	"	13	Blue/White	Thick, bordered card. Several printings—little variation.	CP2	2	
3	1890	2d.	5½" x 3½"	14	Carmine/White	Thin card, no border.	CP3	3	
4	"	3d.	"	8	Green/Buff	Thin card, no border. 2 printings. See note b.	CP4	4	
5	1893	½d.	4¼" x 2 15/16"	12	Red-brown/White, Cream, Pale Buff	Thick bordered card. Several printings.	CP7	6	a

Surcharged at Perth in Blue or Violet

6	1893	1½d.	5½" x 3½"	8		Surcharged on No. 4 (3d. Green/Buff).	CP5	5	b
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Printed by Government Printer, Melbourne

7	1902	1d.	4 13/16" x 2 15/16"	13	Blue/Cream	Thin, bordered card	—	—	c
8	"	1d.+1d.	5" x 3 15/16"	13	Red/Cream	Reply card.	CP8	7	df
9	"	1½d.+1½d.	5¼" x 3¾"	69	Blue/Light Green (Vic.)	Reply card.	CP9	8	ef
10	1904	1d.	4¼" x 2 15/16"	13	Blue/Cream	Unsurfaced, bordered card. 2-line "Available only for the Commonwealth," etc.	CP10	9	g
11	?1905					Provisional.	—	—	h
12	1905	1d.	4¾" x 2¾"	13	Blue/Cream	Unsurfaced, bordered card. 2-line "Available only for the United Kingdom," etc.	CP11	10	j

Surcharged at Perth in Violet

13	1905	1½d.	5½" x 3½"	14		Surcharged on No. 3 (2d. Carmine/White)	CP6	11	k
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Printed by Government Printer, Melbourne

14	?1909	1d.	4 13/16" x 2 15/16"	13	Blue/Cream	Unsurfaced, bordered card.	—	—	m
15	1909	1d.	4 15/16" x 3 11/16"	13	Blue/Cream	Unsurfaced card, no border.	CP12	12a	np
16	"	1d.	5½" x 3½"	13	Blue/Cream or White	Chalf-surfaced card, no border.	CP13	12b	ng
17	1912	1½d.	5½" x 3½"	69	Blue/Light Green (Vic.)		CP14	13	r
18	"	1d.	5½" x 3½"	13		ONE PENNY on No. 3 (2d. Carmine/White).	CP15	14	s

Card printed by Government Printer, Sydney; Stamp by Government Printer, Melbourne

19	1908	1d.		13		Commemorative, "Visit of the American Fleet."	—	15	t
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Notes

- (a) Ascher lists this card as issued in 1894, but it is recorded in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* dated 23 September 1893. There is very little variation in the colour of the stamp printed on the cream and pale buff cards, but at least two strikingly different shades have been noted on the white cards.
- (b) *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* reports the appearance of this card in the issue dated 25 January 1893. There were at least two printings of the basic card, as the surcharged card has been noted in two sizes, which is not very significant in itself, but the stamp on the smaller card (5½" x 3½") is in a noticeably lighter shade of green. Early in 1905 the Deputy P.M.G., Perth, reported to the P.M.G., Melbourne: "The stock of old 3d. cards surcharged 1½d. is exhausted and authority is sought to surcharge 2d. cards in the same way. There is a small demand for 1½d. cards, and 2d. cards, of which we have a large supply, could thus be utilised." Approval was given on 30 March 1905 (*Melbourne Records*). Bright lists the surcharge in blue, pale blue or violet, and also records a variety, "double surcharge in blue," which is listed by Robson Lowe as CP5a.
- (c) Local reproduction of the De La Rue card No. 2. The top of the Royal Arms is 4½ mm. below the border; the base of the instruction, "The address," etc., is on a line with the base of the impressed stamp (see Note m). Although the lack of clarity in the definition of the swan is a good guide to Melbourne printings, the deciding factor is the thickness of the card. All De La Rue printings are on *thick* card; those produced by the Government Printer, Melbourne, are on card of *much lighter weight*.
- (d) The inscription, printed in the same shade of red as the stamp, reads POST (Royal Arms) CARD / WESTERN AUSTRALIA / THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE. On the reply half attached, the word REPLY is substituted for the third line. That half of the card intended for use by the first writer is inscribed at the lower left corner, THE ANNEXED CARD IS INTENDED / FOR THE ANSWER, in two lines. Mr Gartner has a copy of this half of the card on which this two-line inscription has been erased by printer's rule in red. Rev. J. C. W. Brown, in *Philately from Australia*, March 1958, page 3, states that this was probably done in 1917, quoting *The Australian Philatelist* as reporting a similar Victorian item on 27 February 1917; note also that in Robson Lowe's Volume IV, at page 345 under "Commonwealth of Australia," the former Victorian item is listed with the accompanying note, "The First World War caused an acute paper shortage in Australia." The evidence is that John Gartner's item is an official production issued during World War I due to shortage of commodities, but that it should be classified as *Commonwealth* Postal Stationery.
- (e) This reply card is headed "Union Postale Universelle" and the instruction at the lower left corner (see Note d above) is printed in one line in English, repeated underneath in French. On 1 August 1907, the Government Stamp Printer, Melbourne, reported that the demand for these 1½d + 1½d. cards was very small and proposed that the stock held at the Stamp Printing Branch be destroyed; at the time this suggestion was not approved, but instructions were given to destroy the stock of cards on hand on 26 September 1910 (*Melbourne Records*).
- (f) The *Western Australian Post Office Guides*, April 1898 *et seq.*, include regulations for reply post cards, but from the context it is quite clear that these were privately printed and were not on sale at post offices.
- (g) This card is a resetting of No. 7, a two-line text having been inserted which reads, in full, "Available only for the Commonwealth, British New Guinea, New Zealand and Fiji; if used for any other place a Halfpenny Stamp must be affixed." Bright lists this card as issued in 1906, but used examples are known postmarked in 1904. Robson Lowe lists this card as No. CP10 but does not indicate the inscription on it. There was more than one printing as shades exist, e.g., postmarked at Kundip, 8.1.1909, in a much lighter shade of blue.

(To be continued)

THE YANDINA POSTAL AGENCY, BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

By Rev. A. H. VOYCE

Prior to World War II, all mail from the Russell Islands was taken to Tulagi in the Florida Group of islets. When war came, and the Japanese were driven from Guadalcanal and Tulagi and the Russell Islands, American Seabees turned the Russell Islands into a vast Allied base, building airfields and roads and wharves.

Following the cessation of hostilities, ships were not available for a time to supply the British Solomon Islands from Australia, and the group had to depend largely on air services. Qantas Empire Airways Limited inaugurated a service using Douglas DC3 aircraft, flying from Lae, New Guinea, to Honiara on Guadalcanal, and to begin with, making only one call in the British Solomon Islands en route, at Barakoma Airfield, on Vella Lavella.

However, after a time it was decided to include the Russell Islands in the service and an airfield there was rehabilitated, and a postal agency was set up at Yandina for the despatch and receipt of mails, but without other normal postal facilities such as registration and money order matters. It was undoubtedly the fact that wartime airfields made such a service possible that a postal agency was established at Yandina.

At first, mail was just picked up and taken to Honiara for cancelling, and no distinguishing marks were applied to mail, but later there were manuscript and line rubber stamp markings. Finally, at the beginning of 1954 a normal post office was established, with a circular datestamp and registration and money order facilities.

During the period that Yandina was a postal agency, mail was mostly picked up by the incoming plane and taken to Honiara, where the Honiara c.d.s. was added over the previously-made Yandina markings, either manuscript or rubber stamp line dater, and where the registration of covers requiring it were dealt with, and the mail was then despatched the following day by the return flight of the aircraft. However, on that return flight further mail, generally less in quantity, was picked up, bearing only the Yandina markings, and including often large number of parcels, and this mail was taken direct to Sydney, or, where there was mail for New Guinea, direct to Lae.

From available information it would appear that the postal agency began to operate first at Yandina in November 1951, for Mr R. J. Clark wrote in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, October 1952: "Owing to an emergency, Yandina became an unofficial post office during November 1951." He goes on to state:

"At first, no cancellation was used; later two lines were drawn with a pen over the stamps; later the date was added to the lines; and at the end of the following April the usual practice was reverted to."

Just what Mr Clark meant by the "usual practice was reverted to" is difficult to determine, though he goes on to say: "Stores were sent to Yandina weekly, the mail was picked up, and stamps affixed and cancelled at Honiara." So it would

appear that what he meant was that the usual practice prior to the emergency spoken of when the postal agency was opened in November 1951 was reverted to, and the mail was picked up and taken to Honiara, and so there were no distinguishing marks to show that such mail emanated from Yandina.

However, a fairly full coverage of stamps comprising large and small "pieces" were sold by auction in Sydney in July 1958, and the purchaser, Mr W. H. Chadwick of Canada, made them available to the writer for study, and this made it possible for a fairly good coverage of the Yandina postal markings to be written up, together with other material collected during the currency of that postal agency, mostly from normal non-philatelic mails within the group.

Between November 1951 and the first "reported" use of the manuscript date 31.3.52 there was the period when, to quote Mr Clark, "at first no cancellation was used" and the period when "later two lines were drawn with a pen over the stamps." Illustrating that second phase I have two examples:

Pair of 10/- stamps.

Large "piece" with eight only 10/- stamps, plus one 2/- stamp.

This latter "piece" shows four of the 10/- stamps cut with scissors and the 2/- so badly cut that only about one-third of it remains. On the back of this piece is inscribed "Balance of this piece held by W. H. Chadwick." The original piece was of the value of £11/3/3 postage on a parcel, probably of engine parts for repair! Such pieces support the bona fide use, as no one in their senses would deface by blue ink lines and cut with scissors so many high value stamps.

Following this method of use, examples show "two blue lines with manuscript dates between" of the following dates:

31.3.52
10.4.52
15.4.52
17.4.52

Then follow examples when red ink manuscript markings were used. Only one date throughout the history of Yandina, but three examples are reported and these appear to come from large envelopes:

22.4.52. A. H. Voyce. Strip of four 3d. stamps.
W. H. Chadwick. Strip of three 3d. stamps.
S. C. Jersey. Strip of three 3d. and one 1½d. stamps.

Then blue ink was again used as follows:

29.4.52
6.5.52
13.5.52
21.5.52
27.5.52
23.6.52
24.6.52

The last date is the latest date reported of the consecutive manuscript markings with the date between two lines. Most of the reported pieces are from parcels, though some are cut-outs from envelopes. One person who used the Yandina postal agency reported that there was an office building, and presumably postal material was cancelled as received, and not merely on the day of departure of the aircraft.

The earliest reported rubber stamp line dater cancellation is 20 Jul 1952. The

above dates do not tie in with Mr R. J. Clark's statement in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* of October 1952:

"At the end of the following April the usual practice was reverted to," by which, we pointed out, he probably meant that the mail from Yandina was picked up when the weekly supply of stores was landed, and it was then taken to Honiara for cancellation there. It is likely that Mr Clark was out in his dates, and the period should have been from the end of June and not the end of April. This would account for the fact that no examples of Yandina cancelling are reported between 24.6.52 and 20 July 1952, the date of the first rubber stamp cancellation.

The Large Rubber Stamp Line Dater Canceller

Beginning with 20 Jul 1952, cancellations with a rubber stamp line dater, with figures and lettering measuring approximately 5 mm. in height, are reported:

20 Jul 1952
21 Jul 1952
25 Aug 1952
26 Aug 1952
8 Sep 1952
15 Sep 1952

One example is of more than passing interest. It is a strip of three 10/- stamps cancelled with rubber stamp line dater 15 Sep 1952, and overcancelled with the Sydney c.d.s. 18 Se 52, surely proof of transport by air.

18 Sep 1952
23 Sep 1952

The first reported cover entire with the rubber line dater cancellation comes through Mr D. H. M. Clarke of Victoria, who states: "An acquaintance from this city was on a Burns Philp vessel enroute to New Guinea in 1952, and this was one of several covers he posted back to me, and he declares this was from Yandina." The date is 7 Oct 1952.

Then follow these dates:

20 Oct 1952. Block of twenty 5/- stamps.
10 Nov 1952. Blocks of twenty and twelve 2/6 stamps.
17 Nov 1952. Blocks of twelve and nine 2/- stamps.

Next follows an interesting cover. It was despatched by the engineer of the M.V. *Malakuna* to New Zealand, and bears on the reverse side the return address: M.V. *Malakuna*, C/o Kihili, Buin, Bougainville, New Guinea. 20/11/52. That vessel had broken down in the Russell Islands and was then undergoing repairs at Lingatu, near Yandina. The cover was despatched on the outward flight of the aircraft from Honiara, and is cancelled 24 Nov 1952. Then follows another piece dated 26 Nov 1952.

Another interesting cover is franked with the normal 10d. postage and addressed to Bougainville, New Guinea, with the rubber stamp line dater 1 Dec 1952, despatched on the inward flight of the aircraft, and postmarked also at Honiara on arrival the same day, 1 Dec 52 6 P.M. This cover bears on the front the cachet marking M.V. *Malakuna* 1/12/52, and endorsed "Under Repairs at Lingatu, A. G.

Voyce." The return address on reverse states: "Sender G. Voyce, M/V *Malakuna*, Lingatu, Russell Islands." This and the previous cover "tie down" the use of the rubber stamp line dater to Yandina.

Further dates of the use of the line dater follow:

- 9 Dec 1952.
- 23 Dec 1952. Block of five 10/- stamps.
- 13 Jan 1953. Blocks of nine and sixteen 10/- stamps.

Next is the first known Registered cover from Yandina, franked with the normal 1/2 in stamps and addressed to Mr R. A. Baldwin of Sydney, cancelled at Yandina 2 Feb 1953 and despatched via Honiara, where it was cancelled and registered 2 Feb 53. Return address on reverse side: "Sender, L. F. Gill, Barakoma Airfield, Vella Lavella." The cover bears the Sydney c.d.s. 5 Feb 53.

The Yandina rubber stamp dater is in blue, the first reported in this colour.

Mr Baldwin also reports a cover with manuscript cancellation, addressed to Sydney and dated 2.2.53, which is also Registered at Honiara (No. 290) and cancelled 2 Feb 53. The manuscript is a date between two lines, 2/2/53, with the initials K.W. in blue. The initials are those of the postal officer, Mr Kevin Williamson, and this is the first recorded example of the postal officer's initials accompanying the manuscript date.

Further dates of the rubber line dater canceller are:

- 7 Feb 1953. Block of ten 10/- stamps.
- 10 Feb 1953. Block of twelve 5/- stamps.
- 16 Feb 1953. This is a Registered cover addressed to Bougainville, New Guinea, cancelled and Registered at Honiara, No. 412, 16 Feb 53, with Rabaul transit cancellation on reverse 18 FE 53.
- 17 Feb 1953.
- 2 Mar 1953. Registered cover No. 536, at Honiara 4 Mar 53, the plane having been delayed two days. Addressed to Bougainville and backstamped Rabaul 5 MR 53, and Buin 11 MR 53.
A manuscript cancelled Registered cover of same date is reported with date between two lines, 2/3/53, and the initials K.W. Registered No. 537 at Honiara, 4 Dec 53. Carries same Rabaul and Buin back-stamps.
- 1 Apr 1953. Commercial cover addressed Methodist Mission, Munda, from Fairmead Sugar Company, Yandina, with *blue* line dater mark, and Honiara 2 Apr 53. Plane delayed one day.

Further rubber line dater cancellations:

- 2 Apr 1953. Block of twelve 10/- stamps.
- 8 Apr 1953. Block of twelve 10/- stamps.
- 11 May 1953. Commercial cover, with Honiara postmark same date, and addressed to Munda.
- 20 May 1953. Commercial cover, similar to above.
- 1 Jun 1953. Commercial cover as above.

The Small Rubber Stamp Line Dater Canceller

This new small type rubber stamp line dater has letters approximately 3½ mm. high. The first reported use was from Mr Max Bulley of Melbourne, and had the date 28 Jun 1953, with the manuscript initials K.W. Other reported dates are:

- 11 Jul 1953. Commercial cover.
- 24 Jul 1953. Commercial cover.

- 14 Sep 1953. Native letter addressed to Choiseul Island.
22/9/53. This cover does not have the rubber stamp line date but only the manuscript date 22/9/53 and initials K.W. It is addressed to Bougainville, New Guinea, and endorsed "Via Yandina."
- 28 Sep 1953. British Solomon Islands Protectorate Air Letter form, overcancelled Honiara 28 Sep 53 and addressed to Bougainville and showing Buin arrival mark.
- 3 Oct 1953. Block of nine 5/- stamps.
5 Oct 1953. Block of five 10/- stamps.
21 Oct 1953. Registered cover with Honiara over the stamps.
16 Nov 1953. Air Letter form addressed to England, and over-cancelled Honiara 16 Nov 53.
20 Nov 1953. Commercial cover, and postmarked Honiara 23 Nov 53.

No examples are reported between that date and the opening of the permanent post office at Yandina on 2 Jan 54, when full postal facilities became available there. Mr R. A. Baldwin of Sydney reports the following:

Registered cover No. 1, Yandina, British Solomon Islands, 2 Jan 54. Endorsed on reverse Sender: T. H. Manning. (Mr Manning was the Protectorate postmaster.)

Ordinary cover Air Mail with same date, from Kevin Williamson, Postmaster, Yandina, on Fairymead Sugar Company Limited, Yandina, B.S.I.P. envelope.

Yandina postal agency was operated by Mr Williamson from its inception to the time it became a full post office.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Apology

The Editor apologises for the late appearance of this issue. This is due to his indisposition, and he trusts that his readers will find the number worth waiting for.

Pacific Study Circle

A Pacific Islands Study Circle has been established in Britain.

This is one unofficial result of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain at Worthing in June.

Founder of the Study Circle is Dr R. B. Parker, Westerly, 42 Oldway, Bishopston, Swansea, Wales.

Christmas Issues

Madonnas will be in fashion for this year's Christmas issues.

New Zealand is using Madonna in Prayer, by Il Sassoferrato (Giovanni Battista Salvi - 1605-85).

Australia has adopted 16th century Spanish woodcarving of the Madonna and Child, the original of which is in the National Gallery of Victoria.

This subject will also be used for Norfolk Island.

Description

"Cerne began gathering up his target photographs with the regretful resignation of a philatelist disturbed at his hobby." — Geoff Taylor, *The Hollow Square*.

Keeping P. from A.

From time to time, inquiries are made regarding the binding of *Philately from Australia*. Provision of special binders or group binding on an organised basis has proved impracticable, but it may be mentioned that the envelopes in which *P. from A.* is despatched will hold two years' issues.

REVIEWS

Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings, by H. M. Campbell, J. R. W. Purves, and L. C. Viney. 212 pp. 11¼ x 7¼ in. The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. Price £5.5.0.

After reading this book I feel sorry for those unenlightened philatelists who do not collect Tasmania.

Collecting stamps as stamps is a pleasure, but that pleasure is multiplied a thousand-fold when you know the story behind the postmark. The story of the postal history of Tasmania is one which certainly will add enjoyment to any collection of the stamps of this State.

The mere mention of the name "Van Diemen's Land" immediately conjures up visions of convicts in leg-irons and the fierce dogs which guarded Eaglehawk Neck to prevent escape from Port Arthur. These are brought vividly to the reader's mind in the chapter on prisoners' letters.

Here, for the first time, is assembled the full story of the postal history of this fascinating episode of Australia's history. Indeed, the historical aspect of the book will surely make it a "must" for the Australian bibliophiles, and philatelists will be well advised to secure a copy.

The first chapter, which commences the historical background and the discovery of the island, is as good as any adventure story ever written, and the gradual merging into the pre-adhesive and early postal markings, and "Ship Letters," still seems part of the adventure.

The reader is then taken to the numeral obliterators stage, and the mysteries of the first and second allocation of these numerals is elucidated and explained in detail together with many photographs of early letters and covers.

A full history of the various post offices includes opening and closing dates. The data on the celebrated Town datestamps of the pictorial period, which was first published in *Philately from Australia* in 1950, has been rewritten and fully revised in the light of the additional information gained since then. Special chapters are devoted to provisional and abnormal cancellations and special usage markings. Coloured postmarks are mentioned where applicable.

The new system of rarity ratings of these

cancellations is excellent and while it is fuller than in the original form I feel that it could have been extended even further. It is noted that in some instances certain variations of postmarks are listed in the remarks column as being "rare," but strangely enough the editor has omitted to rate these cancellers with an "R," "RR," etc.

I was sorry to note that the rarity of Crown Seals and manuscript cancellations was not shown by "R" symbols.

The special usage cancellations also deserved an "R" rating and no doubt some of the Hobart and Launceston cancellations would qualify for the hallmark of greatness with one, two, three, or four "R"s.

However, these omissions do not detract from the fullness or usefulness of the list. If certain items are rare, this is usually mentioned, but I feel sure that collectors would have appreciated the additional information as to the degree of rarity.

The only real omission I could see in the listing of the town names was that the Large Crosses variety of Queenstown was not mentioned.

The only other criticism I could offer is that the illustrations are not always opposite the reading matter relevant to the particular illustration, but when one remembers the enormous number of illustrations in this volume, it is obvious that this must be expected.

Special chapters cover the Travelling Post Offices, Tasmania in the Antarctic, Special Exhibitions, and the Franking System, together with a full list of the Frank Stamps which may be found.

The appendices cover the Regulations for the Guidance of the Post Office Department issued in 1853. There is a complete index of all the towns mentioned in the volume.

The illustrations of the various postal markings are extremely well done, and in order that the reader will not be tempted to cut them from the book to mount in his collection, the publishers have included 11 loose pages (an extra set) of these illustrations in a flap inside the back cover.

It is a book which no collector of Tasmania can afford to be without, and The Hawthorn Press deserves special mention in any review for the magnificent way in which this volume has been produced.

A.G.B.

French Colonies, The General Issues, by Robert G. Stone. Published by the Collectors' Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York 16, N.Y., as Handbook No. 11. 118 pp., 61 illustrations, 28 tables. Price \$2.00.

This is a fine and scholarly work on a subject which has interested and intrigued students of France and Colonies since stamps of these countries were first issued.

No collector, general or specialist, need now be crestfallen when a stamp which has been cherished as French is labelled Colonies (with a lower catalogue rating, of course) when viewed by a more erudite student.

Postal history forms a feature of Mr Stone's work. He also deals with the interesting sidelights of philately without which no collection or study is complete.

There is all the reader needs to know about postmarks, varieties, essays, proofs, papers, gum, reprints, as well as forgeries and counterfeit postmarks.

Even colour gradations have been interestingly systematised and tabulated.

To the reviewer's knowledge there is no book in French which is as exhaustive – not even the specialists' catalogue.

A minor criticism is that in discussing the Peace and Commerce type stamps Mr Stone offers Dr Joany's conclusions without giving those of Mr Henry Jervis.

The genesis of the INV under U or B has been the cause of constant argument of French specialists and it is about time this whole matter was resolved. Or will it ever be?

It is refreshing that such a valuable work, although paper bound, is well printed on

art paper, excellently illustrated, and choc-a-block full of easily found information. It costs only two dollars, and translated into Australian currency is still remarkably cheap – in fact, possibly, the only philatelic commodity at pre-war price and value.

L.V.S.

Australia and New Zealand to Great Britain (Wartime Services), 1939-1945, by O. R. J. Lee. 16 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by Francis J. Field Ltd, Sutton Coldfield, England. Price 2s 6d. (stg.).

This is the research study which won first prize in The Aero Field Anniversary Award, 1961, and originated from a query in the *Bulletin* of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain.

It reviews the air communications between Britain and the Antipodes during the conflict, and is a valuable examination of a period about which only the main features have been known previously.

Extensive and painstaking research has elaborated Mr E. A. Crome's *Qantas Aeriana* and Mr John C. W. Field's *Bridging the Pacific* in a meticulously detailed study which has surprised other specialists in this field.

He deals with the 1939 flying-boat service, the Horseshoe Route, P.A.A.'s Trans-Pacific services, the combined sea and airmail services of 1941-44, R.A.F. Transport Command, and the Qantas Empire Airways Indian Ocean service.

Noteworthy are tables showing the airmail transmission times, air postage rates, and the routes followed.

CORRESPONDENCE

TASMANIA 5s. GEORGE AND DRAGON DISCOVERY

Sir – Basset Hull, in his book on the stamps of Tasmania, mentions that in 1888 a supply of the 2s. 6d. George and Dragon was printed on the De La Rue paper watermarked with the small, unbarred TAS. This variety is not listed in Gibbons, though the new Robson Lowe volume deals with it.

I recently found a number of the 5s. George and Dragon stamps printed on the same type of paper, with the unbarred

TAS watermark. The colour is a pale, washed-out shade, something in between a bistre and an olive-brown.

The examples I have are perforated 12, overprinted REVENUE and fiscally used or cleaned. The earliest date is a pen cancellation of 1.1.01.

I have not been able to find any reference to this printing of the George and Dragon 5s., but possibly some of your readers may be able to throw some light on it.

Yours, etc., B. Esterbrook.
Hobart.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

- October
18 Israel, Forerunners and Interim Period,
Mr C. W. Davies
- November
6 Library and Conversation.
15 China, Mr G. V. Browning.
24 Auction.
29 East Germany, Mr I. Gust.
- December
4 Library and Conversation.
20 Services Cancellations, Mr P. Collas.
- 1963
January
17 Some Handbooks from the Library, the
Library Committee.
What Publications Can Do for the Society,
Mr J. R. W. Purves.
31 Japan, Mr W. Rocke.

Hong Kong and Treaty Ports

Mr E. W. Hill's display at the May meeting featured Hong Kong and Treaty Ports.

The Hong Kong section opened with the Queen Victoria adhesives, including the provisionals, mint and used, and the several printings of the second issue, 1863-71, identifiable by shade variations and paper thickness were classified.

The 4 cent grey and 2c. rose-lake, perf. 12½, were shown, as well as many varieties in the 22 provisionals issued between 1877 and 1898.

Most interesting were the Treaty Port and other cancellations, which resulted from China agreeing to open certain ports for trading, following the Treaty of Nanking, 1842.

Competition

For the first time, the society's medal has been won by a woman — Mrs P. L. Turnbull, whose entry was the Police Postal Agencies of Malta.

There were six entries for this year's competition. Mr G. T. Houston showed Liechtenstein fore-runners; Mrs M. Gates, Guernsey; and Mr H. M. Campbell, Tasmania.

Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson presented pioneer Australian airmail covers, and Mr O. G. Ingles, Postal Chess.

Annual Meeting

The retiring president (Mr Alan Brown) in his address to the annual meeting said he was happy to look back on the year as one of achievement — one in which the society had progressed.

Eight members of the society had been among the award winners at the New Zealand Philatelic Exhibition, gaining three gold medals, four silver medals, two bronze medals, and two merit awards.

Several attractive prints of early Victoria had been hung in the rooms and arrangements had been made for the erection of a presidents' board.

Preliminary discussions for the 1963 International Philatelic Exhibition had been held with the society's joint convenor, the Victorian Philatelic Association, and steps taken for the formation of the necessary committees for the preliminary work associated with this venture.

"Extremely cordial relations exist between the V.P.A. and our society," Mr Brown said.

Mr Brown said he had to pay special tribute to the secretary (Miss M. Farley) and the treasurer

(Miss J. Buchanan) who had given many years of splendid service, but who were not seeking re-nomination. "Several pages would be insufficient to pay proper tribute to the wonderful assistance they have so willingly given to the society, but I must content myself by saying 'Thank you for a job well done,'" he said.

Mr Brown tendered his own and the Council's thanks to Mrs M. Gates and the ladies who prepared the afternoon suppers.

He also thanked the chairman of the House Committee (Mr C. Hodgkinson) and the Business Manager of *Philately from Australia* (Mr A. J. Petrie), who were not seeking re-election after many years of devoted service.

Officers elected: President, Mr R. Lloyd-Smith; vice-president, Mr I. R. W. Purves, F.R.P.S.L.; immediate past-president, Mr A. G. Brown; secretary, Mr G. T. White; treasurer, Mr G. Trevor; council, Mr E. G. Creed, E. B. Doery, J. Gartner, F.R.P.S.L., A. W. Bunn, A. J. Petrie and C. G. Skewes; librarian, Mr D. N. Baker; superintendent, exchange branch, Mr E. B. Doery; press correspondent, Mr H. L. Chisholm; superintendent, sale by tender branch, Mr T. C. Lester.

Presidential Display

Mr Brown's display featured selected items of Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia.

Some of the items which attracted attention were the numerous essays and proofs of N.S.W., reconstructed plates of the 2d. Laureate and the 6d. Registration stamp, the retouches of the 2d. Diadem, including some on cover and imperf. between of the later perforated issues.

Queensland provided some lovely Chalon Heads, some on unclaimed "advertised" covers, colour trials of the Patriotic issue, errors and varieties, two pages of manuscript cancellations, and a page of Queensland used in New Guinea.

The Tasmanian section included many pre-stamp covers, some unusual free franks including those of Governor Wilmot, Governor Denison, and James England, the first Postmaster-General.

An early South Australian cover showed a Ship Letter cancellation applied at Adelaide which previously had been attributed exclusively to Hobart.

Iceland

Miss Helen Serjeant-White opened the display of Iceland on 16 August with a brief account of the country's political and postal history.

The comprehensive display ranged from S.G. No. 1 to the most recent issue. Examples of postal stationery and airgrammes were also shown.

The "Zeppelin" issue, both mint and used, with a cover, was noted.

An unusual item was an internal airmail cover bearing the 15 aur. value of the Parliamentary Millenary Celebration Air Stamps. A "specimen set" of these stamps was also included.

Some examples of "Official" stamps were shown.

Sea mail and paquebot marks were then shown, followed by a number of Iceland stamps bearing overseas postmarks including Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Leith and Hull. These "post-marked abroad" are frequently the result of bad weather preventing the mail taking its usual route.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Members' Diary

1962

October

9 Stamps on Covers (prior to 1920), compiled by Mr M. Dankin.

30 Italy and Vatican City, Mrs J. A. Clayton.

November
13 Antarctica — Paper and Display, Mr E. J. Garrard, F.N.P.S.L.

December

11 Commonwealth of Australia — King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II Varieties, Mr M. L. Skinner.

Election of Officers

Once again, only a sufficient number of nominations was received to fill the respective offices, so no election was necessary. The returning officer, therefore, declared the following members elected for 1962-63:

President, Col. F. V. Thompson; vice-presidents, Messrs R. H. Taylor and V. Frankenstein; secretary-treasurer, Mr R. H. Markham; exchange superintendent, Mr M. L. Skinner; librarian, Mr H. Croaker; committee, Mrs I. Campe, Miss M. Salier and Mr E. J. Garrard; sale by tender superintendent, Mr C. Ashworth Spreat.

After many years' service to the club, in the role of exchange superintendent, Mr Walter Finigan did not seek re-election. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr Finigan for his great assistance to the club over many years.

Our new exchange superintendent, Mr M. L. Skinner, of 19 Lord Street, Mount Colah, N.S.W., is now on the job and would be very pleased to receive exchange sheets from members. Mount up those duplicates on exchange sheets, which are available at 9d. per dozen, and let Mr Skinner have them.

Mr Cahill did not seek re-election, owing to business commitments, and we would take this opportunity, also, of thanking him for his services during his term as treasurer.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting in July was well attended and reports presented again told a story of steady progress. A slight increase in overall membership and more encouraging attendances at the regular monthly meetings, which have all produced excellent displays, were features of the past year.

It was decided to seek a further change of locale for club meetings and, commencing in January 1963, the meetings will be held in Room 2 of the G.U.O.O.F. Building, 149 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

Western Australia

Three members of the Australian States Study Circle (Messrs J. C. Thompson, J. S. White and E. R. Slade) combined, at the June meeting, to present a display of Western Australia.

A very representative display, mainly of the earlier issues, was shown.

Noted were original die proofs; scarce cancellations; Coolgardie Cycle Service cover; pre-stamp covers with manuscript cancellations of 1847; official roulette experiments; mint blocks of S.G. 8 and S.G. 33; mauve error of colour; rare dull blue 4d.; and many other single items showing the early postal glues of the Colony.

Fiji

Col. F. V. Thompson presented portion of his well-known Fiji collection at the annual meeting.

Among the items selected for display on this occasion were the first Thakombau issues of 1871-8, including "Cent" overprints and 2d. overprints on "VR"; issues to 1900 in various perforations; correspondence regarding the 1877 printings, preparation of die for new 1s. value, etc., and examples of the 1s. stamp, including the mysterious item referred to in Purves' *Stamps of Fiji*; details of 15 types of 5s. stamps with make-up of sheet; correspondence regarding proposed new 5s. stamp, with essays showing approved design; examples of 2½d. overprint of 1891, with block showing wide spacing and diagram showing incidence of this variety in both upper and lower frames; correspondence regarding definitive 2½d. issue of 1892, with essays.

Pot-pourri

At the second July meeting Mr Ashworth Spreat displayed some very interesting "bits and pieces." Included were Mulready covers; Penny Blacks, with block of eight on cover; 1911 Aerial Mail, Hendon to Windsor; N.S.W. Letter Sheets of 1838; Melbourne and Port Phillip (N.S.W.) covers, Sydney view (S.G.1) on cover; Laureates to 8d.; ship and aerial wreck covers; forgeries from various countries; many locals from U.S.A.; reproduced competition designs (Australian) from 1905, and proofs of various duty stamps.

Thematic

Four of our lady members combined at the August meeting to provide thematic displays.

Mrs P. M. Rock presented a portion of her "Honouring Stamps" collection and included the difficult (and expensive) Mexican stamps honouring the Penny Black, and many other items, mainly "stamps on stamps" issued commemorating various postal centenaries.

Mrs A. D. Garrard's share of the display featured "Maps" on miniature sheets, together with the corresponding ordinary issue where possible. Specially noted were stamps commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Pan-American Union; a half-sheet from Surinam with a map surround; and the 1962 Hungary (perf. and imperf.) in honour of the World Football Championship in Chile.

Mrs J. A. Clayton presented "Parliaments and Politicians" and included part of the 1930 Iceland set, the Greek "Hansard" set; "Notes for Women" and Ballot stamps, together with Prime Ministers; Openings of Parliament; Parliamentary Conferences; Houses of Parliament; and Parliamentary cancellations.

Miss V. Zowe completed the display with many stamps showing "Birds," including Pigeon Posts the very colourful Angola issue; and other items from the many countries which have included pictures of their native birds in their stamp issues.

Obituary

It is with sadness that we report the recent passing of Mr John Gale (for some years treasurer of the club, until ill-health caused his resignation) and Mr J. O. Critchlow, well known for his magnificent collection of Russia.

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★ EXCHANGE BOOKS circulate regularly within Australia to interested members.

★ SALE BY TENDER BRANCH enables members to buy and sell stamps not considered suitable by the vendor for exchange sheets. Postal bids accepted from members for any item.

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★ QUARTZ LAMP & MICROSCOPE and a Reference Forgery Collection are available.

★ MONTHLY DISPLAYS: It has always been Society policy to obtain the best available collection for display at Society monthly meetings, Lectures and Discussions by leading Philatelists enable members to improve their philatelic knowledge.

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★ THE SOCIETY'S FEES are: Entrance Fee: £5/5/-; Annual Subscription: City and Metropolitan Members, £3/3/-; Country and Interstate Members, £1/10/-.

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FOUNDED 1890

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